

July 11, 2011

## **SENIOR CENTER INNOVATIONS – NOMINATIONS SOUGHT BY 8/30/11**

Dear Senior Center Director,

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) is seeking your assistance with a project we are undertaking to promote and support senior centers and community centers in our state.

As you well know, California centers have a reputation for resiliency and creativity. This reputation is being challenged by the difficult economic times. Many senior centers are struggling with reduced staff, diminished budgets, and some face the possibility of closing their doors. Even in these difficult times, or maybe because of them, we are hearing about center innovations, resourcefulness and future dreams.

From creative programming to unique partnerships, centers are breaking new ground in ways that strengthen their role in the community and help them to survive and thrive. In recognition of that spirit of innovation, the CCoA is producing a publication that showcases how some centers are meeting the challenge.

The publication will include a compilation of vignettes from around California demonstrating that centers are embracing paradigm and program shifts, moving forward with strategic plans and allowing their creativity to shine despite the economic realities facing their communities. The ideas presented in the publication will be innovations that meet the following criteria: thoughtful, replicable, sustainable and “outside the box.”

**If your center meets this definition of innovation and if you are willing to share your success with others, we ask that you complete the attached nomination form. We are seeking centers that are enacting particularly innovative strategies in any of the following areas:**

**Programming  
Diversity  
Governance  
Vulnerable populations  
Healthy Aging**

**Funding sources  
Partnership/Collaboration  
Outreach  
Facilities  
Life Long Learning**

Our goal is to distribute this document at **the Second Statewide Senior Center Stakeholder Forum in Los Angeles**, November 14, 2011. For more information on the Forum, please visit our website [www.ccoa.ca.gov](http://www.ccoa.ca.gov).

Upon receipt of the nomination, we will contact centers for an interview. From the interview we will prepare a vignette describing the innovation. With nearly 800 centers in California, not all responses may be included in the final publication. If necessary, we will rely on a Senior Center Advisory Panel to help screen the nominations. The Advisory Panel is composed of senior center directors from around the state.

Resources and timing may restrict CCoA from including all nominated centers in the final document.

Information may be sent to the CCoA office at [seniorcenterproject@gmail.com](mailto:seniorcenterproject@gmail.com). Please free to call our office if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra Fitzpatrick".

Sandra Fitzpatrick  
Executive Director